

Wang, Ching-Pi

From: Brower, Janet [browej@health.co.kitsap.wa.us]
Sent: Thursday, July 24, 2003 1:07 PM
To: Alexander, Steve (ECY)
Cc: Wang, Ching-Pi
Subject: Clarification

"Gorst Landfill (aka Bremerton Auto Wrecking Landfill), Gorst: Ecology meeting with Regional Director, Water Quality, Shorelines, Solid Waste, and Toxic Cleanup Programs to determine cross-programmatic response to this site. The Kitsap County Health District has rebutted Ecology's position that the landfill slope is a geotechnical problem. The Health District contends that the potential slope failure is an environmental problem. Ecology will be working with the Attorney General's office to reiterate Ecology's position. Jan Brower of the Bremerton-Kitsap County Health District has repeatedly insisted that Ecology take the lead on site cleanup of the landfill. A portion of the landfill threatens to slump into a ravine and may cause an intermittent stream to backup against a state highway. Ecology, in conjunction with the Ecology AAG, has informed the county that it is Ecology's recommendation that the potential landfill slump (or slope failure) is primarily a geotechnical problem and less an environmental problem. Additional investigation of the environmental media is needed to better define any potential impacts from the landfill. TCP-NWRO/Wang"

The Health District contends that environmental problems at this site are based on ranking 1 using Ecology's own evaluation process and we believe the geotechnical issues (which were not evaluated under MTCA) add to the hazards associated with the site. The Health District is of the opinion that both issues (geotechnical concerns and site contamination) are important to this site and cannot be easily divorced. The Health District is disappointed but accepts Ecology's decision not to proceed with MTCA enforcement at this site. However, we disagree with your rationale and assessment of responsibility. It was important, especially since your letter assigned responsibility for the site to both (??) Kitsap County and/or the Kitsap County Health District, to clarify for the record that this was an abandoned landfill and that Kitsap County neither owned, nor operated, nor contracted for wastes to be disposed of at this facility. (see our letter response for further clarification)

As you know, EPA is evaluating this site under CERCLA and has decided to do additional work at the site. The Health District is also investigating the use of Brownfields monies since considerable investments have already been made further downstream of this site.